

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 EB-11 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /187 W
----- 001974

R 141133Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7539

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

T/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 405

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VS XZ NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN AID TO VIETNAM--PRG INCLUDED

REF: (A) OSLO 2929 (B) STATE 222475 (C) COPENHAGEN 3025

1. THE STORTING (PARLIAMENT) IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE SHORTLY 40 MILLION KRONER (DOLS 2.2 MILLION) IN AID TO VIETNAM. TEN MILLION KRONER EACH WILL BE GIVEN TO HANOI, SAIGON AND TO THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (PRG). THE REMAINING 10 MILLION KRONER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH UNICEF.

2. THE DECISION TO GIVE AID DIRECTLY TO THE PRG REPRESENTS A DEPARTURE FROM THE PREVIOUS NORWEGIAN POLICY OF THE KORVALD GOVERNMENT OF DIVIDING AID TO VIETNAM EQUALLY BETWEEN HANOI, SAIGON AND MULTI-LATERAL ASSISTANCE TO INDO-CHINA AS A WHOLE (REF A). NO FULL EXPLANATION HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THIS
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DEPARTURE BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT FROM PREVIOUS POLICY

EITHER IN PARLIAMENT, WHEN THE QUESTION WAS RAISED THERE, OR BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHEN EMBASSY RAISED THERE THE U.S. POSITION ON DIRECT AID TO THE PRG (REF B). THE ONLY RATIONALE OFFERED WAS THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO GIVE AID DIRECTLY TO THE PRG SO THAT NORWEGIAN AID WOULD REACH ALL GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF VIETNAM, INCLUDING REGIONS WHICH THE PRG CLAIMS TO CONTROL. HOWEVER, NORWAY'S AID PROGRAM MUST STILL BE DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT AND PERHAPS THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE A FULLER EXPLANATION AT THAT TIME.

3. AS DO THE DANES, THE NORWEGIANS VIEW AID TO THE PRG AS A "HUMANITARIAN" GESTURE. NORWAY'S AID TO THE PRG WILL TAKE THE FORM OF EQUIPMENT FOR INLAND FISHING. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT DURING A RECENT VISIT TO OSLO PRG DELEGATES THANKED THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT FOR ITS WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE DIRECT ASSISTANCE.

4. A TRANSLATION OF THE NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT FOR AID TO VIETNAM IS BEING SENT VIA AIRGRAM. GRIFFITH

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Message Attributes

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